

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 010903Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 155

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5441

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, CH

SUBJECT: LEADERSHIP RANKING

REF: A) PEKING 1195; B) HONG KONG 3001

1. THE JAPANESE REPORT (SEE REF A) OF A POSSIBLE NEW RANK ORDER FOR CHINA'S TOP THREE LEADERS (HUA, TENG, YEH INSTEAD OF HUA, YEH, TENG) WAS BASED ON AN APRIL 19 CANTON BROADCAST (HONG KONG 200710Y) WHICH STATED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN A CANTON PLA SCIENCE CONFERENCE HAD "STUDIED THE IMPORTANT SPEECHES OF THE WISE LEADER CHAIRMAN HUA AND VICE CHAIRMAN TENG AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE, VICE CHAIRMAN YEH'S POEM FOR THE CONFERENCE, AND VICE PREMIER FANG I'S REPORT." ON APRIL 24 NANKING BROADCAST (OW 251808Y) ANNOUNCING A SCIENCE CONFERENCE OF THE NANKING PLA UNITS SIMILARLY STATED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAD STUDIED "THE IMPORTANT SPEECHES AND REPORTS MADE BY CHAIRMAN HUA, VICE CHAIRMAN TENG AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE AND THE BRILLANT POEM WRITTEN BY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH FOR THE OCCASION."

2. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS DO NOT SEEM TO US TO REPRESENT ANY
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NEW LEADERSHIP RANKING BUT RATHER ARE A REFLECTION OF THE ROLES -- OR, IN YEH'S CASE, LACK OF ANY ROLE -- WHICH THEY THE LEADERS PLAYED IN THE CONFERENCE. THE MAJOR EVENTS AT THE CONFERENCE WERE THE SPEECHES BY HUA AND TENG. YEH DID NOT ATTEND AND HIS POEM WAS MERELY AN INSPRIATIONAL ADDEDUM. AN APRIL 16 BROADCAST ON THE NANKING PLA SCIENCE CONFERENCE MENTIONED ONLY THE NEED TO STUDY THE

SPEECHES MADE BY HUA, TENG AND OTHER LEADERS, OMITTING ALL
MENTION OF YEH'S PEOM.

3. BROADCAST REPORTS ON THE SCIENCE CONFERENCES AT TWO
OTHER MILITARY REGIONS, WUHAN AND FOOCHOW, DID NOT SEEM TO SHOW
GREATER RESPECT FOR YEH BY MENTIONING HIS POEM AFTER
A DISCUSSION OF HUA'S SPEECH AND BEFORE
DESCRIBING TENG'S. BUT WITHOUT OTHER EXAMPLES WE WOULD
NOT WANT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THESE VARIATIONS BETWEEN
THE DIFFERENT MILITARY REGIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, YEH'S LAST ANNOUNCED PUBLIC
APPEARANCE WAS ON APRIL 2.
LEVIN

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